



# NEWS

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, JR., VICE CHAIR  
JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Montco Adopts \$428.4 Million Budget With No Tax Increase**

**Norristown, PA (December 12, 2019)** – The Montgomery County Commissioners adopted a \$428.4 million budget for 2020 at today’s Commissioners’ meeting. There is no tax increase for Montgomery County residents for the third year in a row. The 2020 budget includes investments in public safety, economic workforce development programs, open space and farm preservation, support to the County’s infrastructure including roads, bridges and trails and continued dedicated funding to Montgomery County Community College. The County continues to address its long-term pension obligation by providing the full, annual payment for 2020 and is providing a 2.75% wage increase for all non-represented employees effective January 1. Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair and Kenneth E. Lawrence, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners voted in favor of the budget. Commissioner Joseph C. Gale voted against it.

“With the passage of the 2020 budget, Montgomery County is well positioned to continue to be a thriving community that is a great place to live, learn, work, and invest,” said Arkoosh. “I’m pleased that we are able to continue providing excellent service to our constituents, improve our aging infrastructure, and invest in our dedicated County staff without raising the County property tax for the third year in a row.”

Because of the County’s sound financial practices, Moody’s Investors Service reaffirmed the County’s AAA bond rating which enables the County to borrow money at the lowest interest rates possible, leaving more dollars to invest in critical infrastructure repairs and improvements that benefit the residents and businesses of Montgomery County.

In 2012, the County was faced with 62 structurally deficient bridges. Since then, the County has completed 27 bridge projects, and in 2019 there are 29 active bridge projects underway. The capital budget includes funding to move forward with the County Campus Redevelopment Plan and \$11.5 million over five years to maintain popular parks, trails, and other public facilities.

Due to decreases in some revenue sources and moderate expenditure growth, there is a planned \$8.9 million deficit in the budget. The County will use the general fund reserve to meet those costs while maintaining \$79.8 million, or 19% of the overall revenue budget. The general fund reserve provides a safeguard against revenue shortfalls or unanticipated expenditures, contributing to a stable tax rate.

The plan also uses County dollars to leverage state and federal grant funding to continue the implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The 2020 Montgomery County operating and capital budgets are available on the County’s finance page [www.montcopa.org/93/Finance](http://www.montcopa.org/93/Finance).

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